

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

USIA WASHDC

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 0186

UNCLAS ROME 1629

TO AMBASSADOR GOLDBERG FROM AMBASSADOR GARDNER

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN, IT, CSCE

SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR GOLDBERG'S ROME PRESS ACTIVITIES

REF: ROME 1185 (NOTAL)

1. IT WAS A PLEASURE TO WELCOME YOU TO ROME. WE THOROUGHLY ENJOYED YOUR VISIT AND HOPE THAT YOU WILL RETURN SOON. OUR WARM THANKS ALSO FOR AGREEING TO GRANT THE TWO INTERVIEWS WE ARRANGED. THE RESULTS WERE HIGHLY POSITIVE.

2. THE ARTICLE BASED ON YOUR INTERVIEW WITH THE MILANESE DAILY, IL GIORNALE NUOVO (CIRCULATION 180,000), APPEARED IN SIX COLUMN ON FRONT PAGE, SUNDAY, JANUARY 22, EDITION. ARTICLE STRONGLY SUPPORTS US HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY AND SUCCESS OF FIRST STAGE OF BELGRADE NEGOTIATIONS, PARTICULARLY IN TERMS OF KEEPING PRESSURE ON USSR TO IMPROVE TREATMENT ITS DISSIDENTS AS WELL AS IN OTHER HUMAN RIGHTS AREAS.

3. AFTER QUOTING YOUR COMMENTS AT LENGTH, IL GIORNALE UNCLASSIFIED

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INTERVIEWER ENZO BETTIZA CONCLUDES: QUOTE SOVIET SOCIETY CAN ONLY CHANGE SLOWLY. THE BATTLE FOR CIVIL RIGHTS IS A LONG-TERM GOAL; FOR THE TIME BEING (THIS POLICY) SUCCEEDS IN PROTECTING SOMEWHAT THE MOST EXPOSED DISSIDENTS, FOR TOMORROW IT IS MORE DIFFICULT TO SAY WHAT WILL HAPPEN. THE FIRST PHASE OF THE BELGRADE CONFERENCE WAS POSITIVE BECAUSE IT PUBLICLY PLACED THE LEADERS OF THE SOVIET UNION BEFORE THE RESPONSIBILITIES WHICH THEY

THEMSELVES ASSUMED BY SIGNING THE HELSINKI FINAL ACT...IN ANY CASE, AMERICAN POLICY DOES NOT ASK THE RUSSIANS FOR THE MOON; IT ONLY ASKS THEM TO RESPECT THAT TO WHICH THEY HAVE AGREED WITH THE WESTERN (COUNTRIES) DURING A PAN-EUROPEAN CONFERENCE THAT BREZHNEV, MORE THAN ANY OTHER GOVERNMENT LEADER, HAD SO INSISTENTLY SOUGHT...AT THE KREMLIN, THEY HAVE BY NOW UNDERSTOOD THAT THE ERA HAS ENDED IN WHICH THE COMMUNISTS, STRONG BEHIND THEIR IDEOLOGICAL AND PROPANDISTIC BODY ARMOR, COULD SAY AND SIGN EVERYTHING, WITHOUT RESPECTING ANYTHING. AFTER HAVING MADE A SERIOUS MISTAKE AT HELSINKI, THEY WILL LOOK FOR ANY ESCAPE WAY POSSIBLE IN ORDER NOT TO MAKE A SECOND MISTAKE AT BELGRADE OR (LATER) AT MADRID. IT IS UP TO AMERICAN AND WESTERN DIPLOMACY TO CUT THAT PATH AND BLOCK THAT ESCAPE.I THINK THAT (AMBASSADOR) GOLDBERG ALSO FEELS THAT WAY UNQUOTE.

4. AS WE POINTED OUT IN OUR PREVIOUS MESSAGE (REFTEL), IL GIORNALE NUOVO, AFTER INITIALLY SUPPORTING US HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY, HAD RECENTLY TURNED SHARPLY CRITICAL OF WHAT IT VIEWED AS SOFTENING OF US PROTESTS TREATMENT OF DISSIDENTS. BETTIZA'S STORY PRESENTS OUR POLICY IN MUCH MORE POSITIVE LIGHT AND MAY SIGNAL IL GIORNALE'S RETURN TO ITS EARLIER SUPPORTATIVE POSITION.

5. YOUR INTERVIEW WITH FIRST CHANNEL OF ITALIAN NATIONAL TELEVISION (RAI) WAS BROADCAST THE SAME EVENING (JANUARY 21), UNCLASSIFIED

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DURING LATE-EVENING NEWSCAST, TO ESTIMATED AUDIENCE OF ABOUT TWO MILLION. IN THIS CASE AS WELL, YOUR SUCCINCT, CONVINCING ARGUMENTS ON IMPORTANCE HUMAN RIGHTS CAMPAIGN AND SIGNIFICANT RESULTS TO DATE OF BELGRADE NEGOTIATIONS, OFFERED STRONGEST POSSIBLE SUPPORT TO THIS MISSION'S EFFORTS TO EXPLAIN TO ITALIANS AND OBTAIN ITALIAN SUPPORT FOR AMERICAN INITIATIVES IN THIS AREA.GARDNER

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